

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 7, 1964

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT
ALLEGATIONS THAT OSWALD WAS
AN FBI INFORMANT

Senator Jim Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, attempted to telephonically contact me at 4:30 p. m., 2-6-64. I was at the White House at the time in Walter Jenkins' office. Upon being notified, I called Senator Eastland and he asked that I see him at 5 p. m.

I called Senator Eastland off the Senate floor at approximately 5 p. m. and he stated that he wanted to talk in confidence. We then proceeded to his private office in the Senate wing of the Capitol. Jay Sourwine, Chief Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) was with the Senator. The Senator locked the door of his office and reiterated that the information he was to furnish me was to be kept in complete confidence. He then asked Sourwine to proceed with the discussion.

Sourwine prefaced his remarks by stating that the SISS did not want to do anything whatsoever that would embarrass the FBI and as a result he was tipping me off of information he had received. He stated that an extremely confidential source of his within the Department of State had advised him that Lee Harvey Oswald was a confidential informant of the FBI's. The same source also alleged that Oswald was paid \$200 per month by the FBI. Sourwine indicated that his source had alleged that CIA knew this to be a fact. Sourwine told me that he had requested that his source contact CIA and get absolute confirmation of this matter. Sourwine claimed that his source had recontacted him and had advised that a CIA employee had confirmed that Oswald was in fact an FBI informant.

NOT RECORDED

Senator Eastland spoke up at this point. He stated that Senator Dick Russell, Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, and a member of the Presidential Commission Investigating the assassination, had told him that an individual had recently testified that Oswald was an FBI informant and had received a salary of \$200 per month. Senator Eastland added that Senator Russell had also told him that it appeared that Secret Service representatives were attempting to place the blame on the FBI regarding the assassination. Senator Russell reportedly had stated that the Secret Service had clearly pointed out that the FBI had not informed the Secret Service regarding the presence of Oswald in Dallas, Texas. Senator Eastland added that Senators Dirksen,

Enclosure

1 - Mr. Belmont

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Jones

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and Hruska had become somewhat exercised over this matter and that Senator Dirksen had urged that the SISS hold a special meeting to discuss the matter. Senator Eastland quoted Senator Dirksen as stating, "We should give J. Edgar Hoover every opportunity to explain about Oswald." Senator Eastland continued that pressure had also been brought upon him to subpoena the Director for a hearing in this connection. He added he also understood that an FBI Agent by the name of "Stanford" allegedly handled Oswald in his informant capacity with the FBI.

Senator Eastland stated that he wanted me to tell the Director that under no circumstances would he cause the FBI any embarrassment whatsoever. He added, however, that he felt the matter should be clarified before a "storm" broke in the newspapers and on the Hill. He pointed out that several news sources already knew of the above facts and that at least one reporter had contacted him to see what he planned to do about the matter.

Senator Eastland asked that no contacts be made with Senators Dirksen, Russell and Hruska until he had the opportunity to tell these Senators that he, Senator Eastland, had been in contact with the FBI.

I told Senator Eastland and Sourwine that we were well aware of the rumors in question and that the facts as alleged were absolutely false. I told Eastland and Sourwine that we had received the same information from Senator John Tower's office and had put the lie to it at that time. I told them that under no circumstances whatsoever was Oswald ever an informant, an employee, or connected with the FBI in any way whatsoever. I told them that their information undoubtedly came about as the result of Henry Wade, a former Agent, and now a County Prosecutor in Dallas, Texas, testifying before the Warren Commission. I mentioned that Wade had made false statements before the Commission and that we were prepared to prove that those statements were false.

Senator Eastland stated he believed me, however, felt that we should have this information, particularly inasmuch as he was getting considerable pressure, and also because of the fact that he felt that Senator Dirksen might pick up the phone at any moment and call the Director about the matter.

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I told Senator Eastland and Sourwine that while their facts were absolutely false, I wanted to advise the Director, and I would be back in touch with them as expeditiously as possible regarding this matter. The Senator reiterated that I check with him prior to contacting Senators Russell, Dirksen and Hruska. I told him I would do this.

After notifying the Director telephonically of the above matter, I read the proposed affidavit that is to be sent to the Warren Commission. Pursuant to the Director's instructions, I will show this affidavit to Senator Eastland, and then Senators Dirksen, Hruska and Russell in that order. This will, of course, be done following delivery of the affidavit to Rankin of the Warren Commission.

I think also it might be a good idea to show this affidavit to Sourwine. At the time of further discussion with Sourwine, I will specifically ask him to identify his source within the State Department so that we may adequately run this rumor down and pin it to the ground. While I doubt that Sourwine will reveal his source, we will at least strongly go on record asking him to do this for our own protection.

I have issued instructions within the Crime Records Division to immediately prepare a public statement, under the Director's signature, in the event that the Director finds it necessary to issue such a statement so that the false rumors concerning Oswald's connections with the FBI can be promptly denied.

ACTION:

1. That I show the attached copy of the affidavit to Senator Eastland and then Senators Russell, Dirksen and Hruska, also to Sourwine, following delivery of the said affidavit to Rankin of the Warren Commission. I will also tell Senator Eastland we have no Special Agent by the name of Stanford, and that this allegation is also false. *It is noted that Mally has delivered the affidavit to Rankin & Eastland & knows nothing of the*

2. That the Crime Records Division immediately prepare a public statement for the Director's usage in the event it is believed necessary to publicly refute the false claims that Oswald was an informant of ours.

3. That I press Sourwine to identify his source within the State Department who has given him this information.